

## Message Text

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S/S - MR. GAMMON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HEREWITH FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE DEC. 12, 1973

HEADED "KISSINGER REPEATS DENIAL ON PLUMBERS"

LONDON, DEC. 11 -- SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER REPEATED HIS DENIAL TONIGHT THAT HE HAD HAD ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE PLUMBERS OR HAD KNOWN THAT DAVID R. YOUNG, JR., HIS FORMER AIDE, WAS ENGAGED IN THE GROUP'S CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES.

IN A BRIEF STATEMENT ISSUED ABOARD HIS AIR FORCE 707 JET FLYING BETWEEN BRUSSELS AND LONDON, MR. KISSINGER SAID: "I STICK EXACTLY TO WHAT I SAID TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE" REGARDING THE PLUMBERS AND MR. YOUNG.

HE WAS RESPONDING TO NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS ABOUT A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE THAT SAID HE HAD PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN SETTING UP THE PLUMBERS OPERATION WHICH WAS CREATED TO STEM NEWS LEAKS AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BREAK-IN OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICES OF DR. DANIEL ELLSBERG'S FORMER PSYCHIATRIST IN

SEPTEMBER, 1971.

THE TIMES SAID THAT MR. KISSINGER NOT ONLY KNEW ABOUT MR. YOUNG'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE UNDERCOVER OPERATION BUT

ALSO WAS INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HIS JOINING THE OPERATION.

WIDE BRITISH PUBLICITY -

THE ASSERTIONS IN THE TIMES ARTICLES HAVE BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN THE BRITISH PRESS, AND SOME AIDES TO MR. KISSINGER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT HE WOULD BE CONTINUALLY HARASSED ON THE SUBJECT BY NEWSMEN THROUGHOUT THE TRIP, WHICH GOES ON TO THE MIDDLE EAST FROM HERE.

MR. KISSINGER BELIEVES THAT HIS DENIALS WERE SO POSITIVE WHEN HE APPEARED BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON SEPT. 7 FOR HIS CONFIRMATION AS SECRETARY OF STATE THAT HE WOULD DO NO MORE THAN REFER QUESTIONERS BACK TO HIS TESTIMONY.

AT THE HEARING, SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY, REPUBLICAN OF ILLINOIS, ASKED MR. KISSINGER IF HE KNEW THAT WHEN MR. YOUNG LEFT HIS JOB ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO WORK FOR JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN, THEN HEAD OF DOMESTIC AFFAIRS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, "AT THAT TIME OR ANY SUBSEQUENT TIME THAT HE WAS TO BE REQUESTED TO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES?"

MR. KISSINGER REPLIED: "SENATOR, I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES THAT DAVID YOUNG MAY HAVE ENGAGED IN. I DID NOT KNOW OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE 'PLUMBERS GROUP' BY THAT OR ANY OTHER NAME. NOR DID I KNOW THAT DAVID YOUNG WAS CONCERNED WITH INTERNAL SECURITY MATTERS."

HE SAID THAT MR. YOUNG HAD TRANSFERRED TO MR. EHRLICHMAN'S STAFF EITHER ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE OR ON MR. EHRLICHMAN'S. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT MR. YOUNG WOULD WORK ON A PROJECT "DEALING WITH DECLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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FICATION PROCEDURES," AND "I HAD NO CONTACT WITH DAVID YOUNG EITHER BY TELEPHONE OR IN MY OFFICE OR IN ANY OTHER WAY AFTER HE LEFT MY STAFF, ALTHOUGH I CONTINUED TO HAVE HIGH REGARD FOR HIM."

"IN SHORT, I DID NOT KNOW EITHER FROM HIM OR ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE 'PLUMBERS' AS I SAID, BY THIS, OR ANY OTHER NAME, OR ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES IN

CONNECTION WITH INTERNAL SECURITY MATTERS," HE ADDED. "I  
THINK IT WAS A DEPLORABLE EVENT." PORTER

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